

# Green Guide for Residents



Green  
Dallas

*...building a greener city.*

[www.greendallas.net](http://www.greendallas.net)



# WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT?

*We constantly hear buzz words in the mass media such as “going green”, “sustainability”, and “energy efficiency.” But what do these words really mean? What actions can we take, as individuals and families, to incorporate these terms and their principles into our everyday lives?*

*This guide is designed to provide suggestions on how you, as global citizens, can take steps to help improve our air and water quality today to ensure that future generations have a clean, healthy environment.*

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# GREEN YOUR HOME

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES

Energy efficiency refers to products or systems designed to use less energy for the same or higher performance than regular products or systems. Energy-efficient homes and buildings are designed to use less energy and that means lower operating costs! But we not only save money, we're saving the environment because there is less demand for energy coming from power plants, most of which contribute to pollution.

### What can I do?

#### Appliances

- Use Energy Star® appliances in homes (e.g.—televisions, cookers, office equipment, computers, and printers)
- Replace coolers, refrigerators/freezers, and ice makers with more energy efficient devices (e.g.—Energy Star® rated)
- Unplug unused appliances! This is the easiest way to immediately reduce your energy use. Did you know appliances and equipment that are plugged in are using power even though they may be turned off (e.g. – televisions, computers, audio equipment, cell phone chargers, toasters, and lamps)? Plug non-essential equipment, such as video equipment, into a power-strip you can switch off at night or while you're out.
- Turn your hot water heater down to 120 degrees. The water will still be hot but your energy bill will be much lower.



#### Climate Control

- Have an energy audit conducted on your home. Many electric companies offer free energy audits.
- Find and seal air leaks and insulation gaps around windows. This will protect the interior of the house from fluctuating temperatures outside.
- Replace existing units with high efficiency HVAC units and heat pumps (e.g.—automated controls for HVAC, two-piped HVAC systems, demand controlled ventilation, air-side economizer systems).
- Install electronic time clocks or programmable thermostats to maximize efficiency.
- In the summer, keep your thermostat at least 78 degrees while you are at home and at least 85 degrees when gone; in the winter, try 68 when you're home and 60 when gone. Watch your energy bills drop!
- Replace your air filter at least every three months. A blocked air filter can cause higher energy costs and system damage.

#### Lighting

- Use timers and daylight sensors and controls.
- Use dimmers and motion or occupancy sensors to automatically turn off lights when not in use, resulting in reductions in energy use and costs.



## Replace Existing Lights with Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs)

CFLs, also known as a compact fluorescent light bulbs, (or less commonly as a compact fluorescent tube [CFT]) is a type of fluorescent Lamp.



Benefits of CFLs include:

- CFLs last up to 10 times as long as regular light bulbs;
- At today's electric rates, swapping out just one 60-watt incandescent bulb for an equally luminous CFL saves more than \$35 over the life of the bulb. Swapping a 100-watt incandescent bulb for a CFL saves more than \$50;
- CFLs use about one-fourth the energy of regular bulbs, which lowers energy consumption.

\*Remember to properly dispose of CFLs.

In Dallas, take your CFLs to:

Home Chemical Collection Center

11234 Plano Road, Dallas, TX 75243 (Mapsco 28-A)

Phone: (214) 553-1765

### Helpful Web sites:

**Q&A on CFLs** [http://www.EnvironmentalDefense.org/documents/7349\\_CFL\\_Q&A\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.EnvironmentalDefense.org/documents/7349_CFL_Q&A_sheet.pdf)

**Environmental Protection Agency and Energy Star® Website: Lighting**

<http://www.EnergyStar.gov/>

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): CFLs**

[http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/hhw/compact\\_fluorescent\\_lights.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/hhw/compact_fluorescent_lights.html)

**TCEQ: List of Local Hazardous Household Waste Programs**

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/hhw/contacts.html>

**American Council for An Energy Efficient Economy**

<http://www.aceee.org/>

**Consortium for Energy Efficiency**

<http://www.cee1.org/>

**U.S. Department of Energy: Office Energy Checklist**

[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/services/energy\\_aware\\_oec.html](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/services/energy_aware_oec.html)

## RECYCLE

Start a campaign to ensure that all houses in your neighborhood have recycle bins!

If you live in the city of Dallas, go to: [www.GreenDallas.net](http://www.GreenDallas.net) Click on *Recycling*

Here you can:

- Request a blue recycling bin (if you live in a single family home)
- Find a list of acceptable items for recycling
- Find a full list of the more than 30 recycling drop-off centers in Dallas. (This is a great option if you live in an apartment, condo or townhouse.)



## PURCHASE RENEWABLE POWER

Renewable energy effectively uses natural resources such as sunlight, wind, tidal action and geothermal heat which are naturally replenished and inexhaustible. Renewable energy technologies can also include biomass and biofuels for transportation.



### What can I do?

Contact your local energy provider to ask about purchasing all or a percentage of energy from renewable sources.

**Did you know?** In Texas, you have the option to choose your electricity provider. Choose a provider who offers clean, green renewable power!

### Helpful Websites:

**Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Guide to Electric Choice in Texas**  
<http://www.PowerToChoose.org>

**Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association (TREIA)**  
*TREIA is an association of renewable energy businesses in Texas. The member list is a good resource for finding renewable energy businesses.* <http://www.treia.org/mc/page.do>

**Texas Solar Energy Society (TXSES)**  
*TXSES is a non-profit organization that maintains a database of renewable energy vendors statewide, searchable by the type of information you are looking for.* [http://www.txses.org/vendors\\_go.php](http://www.txses.org/vendors_go.php)

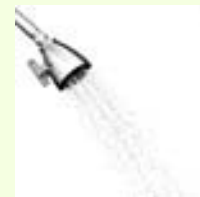
**State Energy Conservation Office: Renewable Power**  
<http://www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us/re.htm>

## CONSERVE WATER

By using water wisely, we can help delay infrastructure expansion and the need for additional water resources. Outdoor water use can be more than 50 percent of total summer water use. By controlling this use we can minimize its impact on our current infrastructure and future expansion.

### What can I do?

- **Repair toilet leaks promptly.** Toilets frequently leak around the flush valve, wasting 20 gallons or more per day. To check for leaks, put a few drops of food coloring in the tank of your toilet. Do not flush the toilet for 10 to 15 minutes. After that time, if the bowl shows traces of food coloring, you have a leak. The flapper valve of the toilet should be checked in this manner at least once a year.
- **Install a low-flow toilet.** For Dallas residents, go to [www.SaveDallasWater.com](http://www.SaveDallasWater.com) to learn about the City's "New Throne for Your Home" Program. This program offers up to \$90 per toilet to replace existing high-flow toilets with low-flow or high-efficiency toilet models.
- **Take shorter showers and install a low-flow shower head** (one that dispenses less than 3 gallons per minute). You can have an invigorating shower, with no reduction in water pressure, and use half the water of a less efficient showerhead. Newer showerheads have switches that allow you to stop the water flow while soaping up or washing your hair.
- **Turn water off** when brushing your teeth or shaving.
- **Buy lower water use appliances.** When it is time to replace your washing machine, consider a low-water use model. Front loaders use even less water than top loaders. And always remember to wash only full loads. If you only have a few items, use the smaller load setting.



## CONSERVE WATER (CONT.)

- **Repair leaking faucets.** A slow drip can waste over 7,000 gallons per year! Often those drips can be stopped by simply replacing a washer.
- **Install faucet aerators.** Aerators are inexpensive and can reduce the amount of water used by 50 percent. It is estimated that faucets use 10 gallons per person per day, so an aerator could save 1,825 gallons per year per person.
- **Fill up your dishwasher!** If you use a dishwasher, wash only full loads. Dishwashers use about 15 gallons of water each time they run.

## CEASE THE GREASE

**Never pour fats, oils, or grease (FOG) down a drain.** You will clog your drain, waste a great deal of water trying to get the grease down your pipes, and you may clog the City's sanitary sewer lines.



- Instead, pour oil and grease into covered containers such as an old coffee can, disposable tupperware, or old glass jars.
- Put the container in your freezer and dispose of it in the trash when full.
- Skim, scrape or wipe off excess grease from dishes, pans, fryers and griddles with paper towels. Place used towels in the trash.
- Make sure pans are grease-free before washing.
- Simply washing greasy dishes with hot water does not stop FOG problems.

### How To Dispose of Large Amounts of FOG:

If you generate large amounts of used cooking oil, **recycle it**. Place your cooking oil in rigid plastic containers and secure with a screw top lid for transporting. The City will accept your cooking oil at these locations:

**Fair Oaks Transfer Station** 7677 Fair Oaks Ave. (214) 670-6126

**Bachman Transfer Station** 9500 Harry Hines Blvd. (214) 670-6161

**Oak Cliff Transfer Station** 4610 Westmoreland Rd. (214) 670-1927

**McCommas Bluff Landfill** 5100 Youngblood Rd. (214) 670-0977

### *Helpful Web sites:*

**Dallas Water Utilities: Conservation**

<http://www.SaveDallasWater.com>

**City of Dallas Cease the Grease Program**

<http://CeaseTheGrease.info/>

# GREEN YOUR LAWN

Some of the biggest environmental mistakes are made in our own front (or back) yards. From the chemicals we use to the water we waste, there are many things we do that could use a bit of 'greening.'

## BE WATER WISE

Most people in North Texas waste a lot of water and money by over-watering their lawns only to end up with dry, brown grass. Here are some tips to get a greener lawn, save water and money!

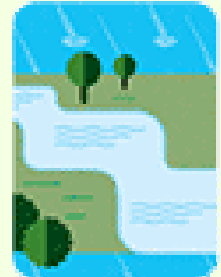
### What can I do?

- **Avoid over-watering!** Water your lawn only when it needs it. Grass only needs about an inch of water every seven to ten days. Place an empty tuna can on your lawn while you water, when it's full, shut the water off. Watch for signs of stress. Bermuda will turn a bluish color or leave imprints when you step on it. St. Augustine blades will begin to roll.
- **Purchase an in-ground automatic sprinkler system** that will skip watering when it is raining or temperatures are freezing. If you live in Dallas, call 214-670-3434 to get a free sprinkler system inspection and find out how some Dallas residents have already saved over 29,000 gallons of water a week!
- **Compost!** Green your garden with a compost pile. You'll save space in the landfill and in the process, you'll create free, healthy fertilizer for your garden. A good compost pile consists of a balance of carbon and nitrogen materials. Carbon materials include leaves, shredded cardboard, shredded newspaper, straw, pine needles. Nitrogens include materials such as grass clippings, manure (no cat or dog feces) coffee grounds and tea leaves.
- **Leave it there!** Instead of bagging your lawn clippings leave them on the lawn. The clippings will naturally fertilize your yard.
- **Plant a tree!** The shade it provides can lower your cooling bills. A single tree can absorb one ton (2,000 pounds) of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. One acre of tree cover can compensate for automobile fuel use equivalent to driving a car between 7,200 and 8,700 miles.
- **Go Native Texan!** By using native plants for landscaping, water usage goes down because these plants require less water and are more tolerant to our climate. In fact, native plants only need whatever amount of water is equal to the annual rainfall!



# PROTECT STORM WATER

Storm water is the water that runs down the street, enters the storm drain system inlets and eventually ends up in our creeks, rivers and lakes. This can be rain water, or even the runoff water from washing your car or watering your lawn. Often times, the moving water picks up many things during its trip including everything from leaves to garbage and even pesticides, herbicides, detergents and used motor oil and carries it straight to our waterways.



Dallas Storm Water Management is tasked with the job of caring for our storm water system.

## What can I do?

### Applying Pesticides and Herbicides

- Do not apply yard chemicals when it is windy or about to rain.
- Follow application instructions for the chemicals (try using organic alternatives)
- Use grass clippings and yard waste for composting. This provides a natural fertilizer.

### Using Detergents

- Wash your car at a commercial car wash where the water is either recycled or goes through the sanitary sewer system to a treatment plant.
- If you wash your car at home, direct the wash water towards your lawn and use environmentally friendly wash chemicals.

### Handling Used Motor Oil

- When changing the oil from vehicles and equipment, place the used oil in a leak-proof container and take to an oil service center for **no-charge** recycling.
- Never dump used oil down the storm drain.
- Maintain vehicles in good working condition to prevent oil leaks.
- Use the Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center at 11234 Plano Rd, Dallas TX 75234 (free to Dallas County residents)

### Walking Your Pets

- Pick up after your pet during walks in public areas, such as parks and along sidewalks.
- Choose one day a week to collect pet waste in your yard.
- Dispose pet waste by flushing it down your toilet or double bagging it for the trash.

### Be Aware of Storm Drains

- Take note of the storm drains around your company's property
- Have your Green Team pick up debris and trash BEFORE it goes into the drain.

## Storm Water Facts:

- Seven types of pesticides and herbicides washed down the drains can be found in local rivers.
- One gallon of detergent washed down the storm drain can pollute up to 200,000 gallons of water.
- One quart of used motor oil washed down the storm drain can pollute up to 250,000 gallons of water.

## Helpful Web sites:



City of Dallas, Green Dallas Initiative

<http://www.GreenDallas.net> Click on *Water*

City of Dallas, Storm Water Management

<http://www.WhereDoesItGo.com>

# GREEN YOUR CAR

The vehicles we drive consume massive amounts of resources ranging from fossil fuels for oil and rubber, to chemicals for cooling and cleaning. They also spew harmful emissions into our air. In fact, 70% of the harmful emissions in North Texas air come from mobile sources like cars and trucks. By taking steps to ensure your car is running at top efficiency, we can reduce our demand on foreign oil and natural resources, better the quality of our air and create a sustainable economy.

## TOP 5 TIPS

### What can I do?

#### **Wait until evening to fill-up**

Refuel your vehicle after dusk. Otherwise, all of those gas emissions bake in the sun all day and cause more pollution!

#### **Don't Top Off Your Tank**

Topping off the tank releases gas vapors in the air and cancels the benefit of the pump's anti pollution devices.

#### **Tune-ups and Tires**

Keep your vehicle in tune, get it inspected and check the air in your tires. Proper tire inflation and clean air filters will get you better gas mileage AND lower your car's emissions. In fact, proper tire inflation can reduce your car's emissions by as much as half. Avoiding fast starts at intersections will save gas too! Proper vehicle maintenance will increase the life of your vehicle, help you get better gas mileage and clean the air at the same time!

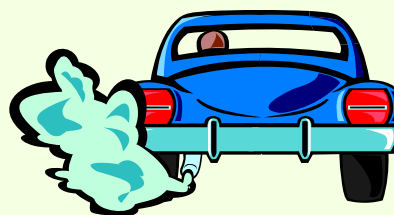


#### **Eco-Friendly Products**

Use environmentally friendly cleaners and chemicals in and on your car. Also, washing your car in the driveway and allowing the soap to run into the storm drain contaminates our streams and rivers. Wash your vehicle with water only and a little elbow-grease, or take it to a carwash that captures and re-uses water.

#### **Report Smoking Vehicles**

Dial #SMOKE from your cell phone. The North Central Texas Council of Governments will advise vehicle owners of possible emissions problems they might not know they have.



## **AIR CHECK TEXAS REPLACEMENT & REPAIR PROGRAM**

This program provides financial incentives for replacing Texas resident vehicles that do not pass emissions inspections test. Financial incentives include:

- Up to \$600 for emissions related repairs or retrofits, including diagnostics
- \$3,000 for a car, van or SUV, current model year or up to three years old
- \$3,000 for a truck, current model year or up to two years old
- \$3,500 for hybrid vehicle of the current or previous model year

Vehicle owners may qualify if the vehicle:

- Failed an emissions test, **AND**
  - Registered in your participating county area for at least 12 months preceding application,
- OR**
- Is 10 years old or older and gasoline powered, **AND**
  - Registered in your participating county area for at least 12 months preceding application, **AND**
  - Passed a DPS motor-vehicle safety inspection or safety and emissions inspection within 15 months of application.



Eligible Annual ( <i>NET</i> ) Income	
Size of Family	Eligible Income
1	\$31,200
2	\$42,000
3	\$52,800
4	\$63,600
5	\$74,400
6	\$85,200
7	\$96,000
8	\$106,800
Over 8	Add \$10,800 for each additional member

Income requirements change each February

**Helpful Web sites:**

**North Central Texas Council of Governments Air Check Texas Replacement and Repair Program**  
<http://www.nctcog.org/trans/air/act/>

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality: Drive a Clean Machine**  
<http://www.DriveACleanMachine.org>

**Regional Smoking Vehicle Program**  
<http://www.SmokingVehicle.net>

## COMMUTE SOLUTIONS

### *What can I do?*

Talk to your employer: Commute solutions programs encourage employees to avoid driving to work alone. Transportation alternatives connect commuters to jobs while reducing emissions and traffic congestion.

Carpool or use public transportation like Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) or the Trinity Railway Express (TRE). Fewer vehicles means fewer emissions. You'll save gas and avoid searching for a parking space.

### *Helpful Web sites:*



North Central Texas Council of Government's  
Employer Trip Reduction Program  
<http://www.TryParkingIt.com>



North Texas Clean Air Coalition  
<http://www.NorthTexasAir.org/>



Dallas Area Rapid Transit  
<http://www.dart.org>



Trinity Railway Express (TRE)  
<http://www.TrinityRailwayExpress.org/>

GREEN YOUR CAR

# GREEN YOUR CITY

## TREES

Trees decrease air temperature and help offset the “heat island” effect by providing shade and transpiration. Trees produce oxygen and store carbon dioxide which helps clean the air. Trees also provide erosion control which can protect our waterways.



### What can I do?

Organize a group of employees or citizens to plant and maintain trees in your city, neighborhood, schools and yard.

### Helpful Web sites:

#### **Urban Reforestation Program**

The City of Dallas encourages the growth of the urban forest by supplying trees to citizens of Dallas. To qualify for assistance, the project must be sponsored wholly or in part by a community group. All trees must be planted on public property that includes City of Dallas parks, recreation centers, public schools, approved medians and parkways. Find out more in the Urban Forest Advisory Committee’s downloadable Tree Planting Guide [www.DallasTrees.org](http://www.DallasTrees.org)



#### **City of Dallas Street Services MowMentum**

The **MowMentum** volunteer service agreement is a joint effort between the City of Dallas and residents to keep right-of-ways and neighborhoods clean and beautiful. This program allows

homeowner association groups, businesses and individuals the opportunity to adopt portions of public rights-of-way for the purpose of maintaining and improving property.

[http://www.DallasCityHall.com/html/mowmentum\\_program.html](http://www.DallasCityHall.com/html/mowmentum_program.html)

**The Texas Trees Foundation** <http://www.TexasTreesFoundation.org>

**The National Day Arbor Day Foundation** <http://www.ArborDay.org>

## PAPER OR PLASTIC? NEITHER.

Plastic bags often end up as litter in our trees or in rivers and lakes, posing threats to fish and other marine life. They can take 1,000 years to decompose. Additionally, every time we use them, we drive up the demand for oil.

### What can I do?

- Instead of throwing plastic bags away, re-use them. Tote your lunch to work or use them as garbage bags.
- Next time you are at the grocery store, bring a reusable bag.



**City of Dallas**  
**Office of Environmental Quality**  
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